

## **Accreditation actions and decisions of the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE)**

**November 23, 2021**

**Updated November 2022**

Consistent with Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) policy, the ACOE publishes the following information about accreditation and pre-accreditation decisions:

- the type of program (professional optometric degree, optometric residency or optometric technician);
- the program's sponsor, and in the case of an optometric residency not sponsored by a school or college of optometry, the name of the affiliated optometric institution;
- accreditation status or action;
- the year of the next currently scheduled site visit; and
- the Council's summary of compliance with the standards, which specifies the Council's basis for any final decision. Updates to the summary of compliance will be published in subsequent reports of ACOE meeting actions when the ACOE determines that the standards are met.

### [Definitions of pre-accreditation classification and accreditation status](#)

At its October 22-24, 2021 virtual meeting, the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE) took the following actions: (Note: Date in parenthesis is the date of the next currently scheduled evaluation visit to the programs. Depending on the outcomes of annual reports, progress reports, interim visits, substantive program changes and other significant events affecting a program, the Council may decide to schedule a full on-site evaluation visit before the original accreditation period is complete. The accreditation period is eight years for professional optometric degree, optometric residency and optometric technician programs.)

Visits that were conducted virtually are indicated; a follow-up on-site visit will be conducted within a reasonable timeframe.

#### **1. Preaccreditation Actions: None**

#### **2. Initial Accreditation:**

**Classification of "Accredited" granted following a site visit:**

**A. (Virtual) Riverside-San Bernardino County Indian Health Inc. Residency in Primary Care with emphasis in Ocular Disease, which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029).** The program was granted the status of Accredited, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program is required to report on its progress related to recommendations to meet Standard V. Updated November 2022: based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council has determined that one recommendation has been met. The month and year behind the reason for met in part or not met denotes when the program met the standard. The program is required to continue reporting on its progress related to the remaining unmet recommendation.

**Summary of findings related to compliance with the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education Residency Accreditation Standards:**

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Level of Compliance</b>	<b>Reason for met in part or not met</b>
I. Mission, Goals, Objectives and Program Improvement	Met	
II. Curriculum	Met	
III. Administration	Met	
IV. Faculty	Met	
V. Residents	Met in part	The resident's compensation, health, professional, and leave benefits, requirements for residency completion, program start and end dates, and significant program deadlines are not consistent in all program publications and websites. (5.1.3) The expected weekly hours of the residents' attendance are not published. (5.2.2) <b>MET 10 2022</b>
VI. Resources and Facilities	Met	

**3. Continuing Accreditation:**

**Classification of "Accredited" continued following a site visit:**

**A. (Virtual) BronxCare Health System Residency in Ocular Disease/Primary Care Optometry which is affiliated with State University of New York College of Optometry (2029).** The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. The program fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

**B. (Virtual) Ferris State University Michigan College of Optometry Residency in Cornea and Contact Lenses (2029).** The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and III following a site visit in 2021 and based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

**C. (Virtual) Gallup Indian Medical Center, Indian Health Service Residency in Primary Eye Care with an emphasis in Ocular Disease which is affiliated with Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University (2029).** The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

**D. (Virtual) Pacific University College of Optometry Residency in Pediatric Optometry/Vision Therapy and Vision Rehabilitation (2029).** The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the

Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated March 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standard V following a site visit in 2021 and based on a progress report submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

**E. (Virtual) VA Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center and Clinics Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease which is affiliated with Pacific University, College of Optometry (2029).** The program's status of Accredited was continued, based on the Council's determination that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. Updated November 2022: The program was issued recommendations to meet Standards I, II and V following a site visit in 2021 and based on subsequent progress reports submitted by the program, the Council found the recommendations to be met. The program now fully meets the six standards for residency programs.

**4. Reconsideration of Accreditation Denial:** None

**5. Withdrawal of accreditation by ACOE:**

**Accreditation withdrawn following submission of the annual report:**

- **Marion VAMC Residency in Primary Eye Care/Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry. Updated March 2022: Program did not request reconsideration or file an appeal; decision to withdraw became final on Dec. 18, 2021.
- **Virginia Eyecare Clinic Residency in Primary Care with emphases in Family Practice and Ocular Disease**, which is affiliated with Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University. Updated March 2022: The program submitted a written petition for reconsideration within 30 days of the date ACOE's notification of withdrawal of accreditation was received. The ACOE considered the program's petition at its February 25-27, 2022 meeting and determined the facts upon which the Council's decision to withdraw accreditation no longer exist or have changed significantly. The ACOE overturned its decision to withdraw accreditation. The program retains the status of Accredited.

**6. Voluntary withdrawal of accreditation:** None

**Note:** In addition to the above accreditation actions, the ACOE also reviewed the following program(s) applying for initial application as a professional optometric degree program. (Stage One Applicant and Stage Two Applicant are not official pre-accreditation classifications, but rather steps toward pre-accreditation.)

**Designation of Stage One Applicant**

- None

**Designation of Stage Two Applicant**

- None

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**Definitions**

**Preaccreditation Classification:** In the case of a program which is not fully operational, the Council may grant the preaccreditation status of Preliminary Approval following satisfaction by the program of the requirements for initial application as outlined in the ACOE's Policy and Procedure Manual and the Council's review of an evaluation team report following a site visit.

**Preliminary Approval:** A preaccreditation classification granted to a professional optometric degree program that has clearly demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council Standards. The program has approval to begin student recruitment, selection and admissions and to begin offering the program. The Council shall review the preliminary approval classification annually during each academic year of the program through written reports and/or evaluation visits as deemed necessary by the Council. The Council will conduct a final on-site evaluation visit to the program for the consideration of an accreditation status during the academic year in which the first class is expected to graduate. If the program is found to meet the Council's Standards, then the Council will grant an appropriate accreditation status. As required by the USDE, the Council will not grant preaccreditation status to a program for longer than five years. When the Council awards Preliminary Approval to a program or at any time during the Council's monitoring of a program holding Preliminary Approval status, the ACOE may issue recommendations or specify conditions for monitoring, which must be attained in order to maintain the preaccreditation status.

**Accreditation Status:** The ACOE may decide to grant one of the two following accreditation statuses to a program following adoption of the evaluation team report and recommendations. Accreditation status may be lowered or revoked if the Council determines that the program is not making sufficient progress on recommendations from the Council.

**Accredited:** A classification granted to an educational program indicating that the program generally meets the standards for accreditation. This classification indicates that the program has no deficiencies or weaknesses that compromise the educational effectiveness of the total program. However, recommendations relating to marginal compliance with certain standards, and suggestions relating to program enhancement may be included in evaluation reports.

**Accredited with Conditions:** A classification granted to an educational program with major deficiencies or weaknesses with reference to the standards of accreditation. This classification indicates that the educational effectiveness of the program is in jeopardy. Programs with this classification will be required to submit progress reports and shall undergo a full evaluation visit within two (2) years for professional optometric degree programs, eighteen (18) months for optometric residencies, and one (1) year for optometric technician programs.

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The ACOE Policies and Procedure Manual may be found in the [Accreditation Resources and Directories of Programs](#) section.